

ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE

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Telephone No. 3-7-4

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JUNEAU, ALASKA, DECEMBER 27, 1912.

ON THE EDGE OF THE BANANA BELT

SLOWLY, but none the less surely, it is being noised abroad that Alaska is not a land of perpetual snow and ice. It is beginning to dawn upon the inner consciousness of even people of the far and, of course, effete, East, that Alaska was maligned when it was dubbed "Seward's ice-box." New York and the whole North Atlantic Coast have just shaken themselves loose from the grip of a blizzard. In the Middle West and Northwest States the cold has been intense. But here in the Alaska panhandle, as this is written, the rain patters on the roof; the grass, which on Christmas Day bore a light mantle of soft white, is today green; there is no touch of the breath of rude Boreas in the breeze; instead there is the balminess of the spring time in lands where grasses spring, waters run and flowers blow with the touch of April sunshine and showers.

From Nome and from Fairbanks, from the mainland and islands to the westward, comes the same story of a climate and climatic conditions that gain by comparison with regions that are supposed to be blessed with a better climate than ours.

And yet some will tell you that this is the "Land that God forgot"—a cursed land unfit for civilized mankind. But these do not know; they cannot, or will not, comprehend its grandeur, its magnificence, its mountains, although many be nameless, and its rivers which may run, God knows where—but we started out to say that with the record of the past three winters in mind, perhaps the Japan Current has really slipped a cog.

TO THOSE WHO COMPLAIN OF "TRIBUTE"

THE total salmon pack of the entire Pacific Coast, including Alaska and the Columbia river, this year, is 5,904,354 cases. Of this amount Alaska contributed 4,065,350 cases, and the rest of the Pacific Coast 1,839,004 cases, or less than one third of the salmon output. The figures are keenly interesting, as showing the importance of the salmon industry—not to Alaska—but to the other sections of the Pacific Coast. For, so far as Alaska is concerned, there is only the glory of being the greatest salmon producing country of the world. But it is mere glory and it must be so rated. The profits of the industry are not for Alaskans. They go into the pockets of men and corporations in Seattle, San Francisco, Portland, Ore., Chicago, New York, and even British Columbia. Alaska is the Lazarus of the business and gets the crumbs that fall from the fishing business that they monopolize.

The figures that are given above are accurate, having been prepared by the secretary of the Association of Alaska Salmon Packers, who, in his report to the association, complains of the "tribute" that the salmon packer pays to the state and government. But, perhaps he should not be censured too severely. Complaining because the rich cannery concerns have to pay "tribute" to state and government, may be a part of his duties.

The foreign cannery corporation preys on a great natural resource of Alaska, and then complains because a tax that is admitted to be exceedingly small by every one, except the packers, is levied on the product taken from Alaska waters by alien fishermen and canned by employes who are virtually peons. These men come from San Francisco or Seattle, or elsewhere in the spring, and draw no pay all the season, nor until they have returned to the place at which they embarked. There, they are paid off, if the padrone, who farms out their labor, has left them anything after the "store account" has been settled.

The time has passed when Alaska's valuable salmon fisheries can be ruthlessly exploited by foreign corporations, and a beggarly pittance given in return for the "privilege."

The fisheries of Alaska belong to the people of Alaska—and with canneries owned and operated by Alaskans we have no quarrel. But we protest against the methods of the outside cannery who would delude the ignorant and uninformed by complaining of the "tribute" that is wrung from these poor, helpless, meticulous men, but who despite it have waxed rich upon Alaska salmon.

Their cry of "tribute" will not save them from the operation of just and efficient laws by which Alaska shall obtain a fair profit from a great natural product.

NEWSPAPERS AND TRUTH-TELLING.

"THERE are newspapers," said Joseph Pulitzer, "which cynically avow their motto to be, 'Facts merely embarrass us,'" and the great newspaper man added, "but you can pretty well count all of them in this country on the fingers of your two hands. They are evanescent. Any institution that flourishes on an appeal to morbidness by the aid of mendacity can have but a precarious hold upon prosperity or even upon life itself."

Anyone who knows his newspaper history will not question the fact that striving for accuracy is steadily growing keener and more widespread. For every four dollars that a responsible newspaper spends on originally getting a piece of news it spends six dollars in verifying it; and it is safe to assert that in any important story, where the facts are available, from a national convention to a murder trial or a football game, such newspapers are extraordinarily accurate. To these, newspaper work is a trust, not a trade.

"Truth-telling," to again quote Mr. Pulitzer, "is the sole reason for the existence of the press, and every time a newspaper prints a mistake, it is performing an abnormal function: every time it prints a deliberate fake it becomes a degenerate and perverted monstrosity."

A LITERACY TEST FOR IMMIGRANTS.

WE READ that Congress is closely dividing over a bill to apply the reading and writing test to immigrants. The enforcement of the immigration laws is in charge of the Department of Commerce and Labor. But the annual report of

I.J. SHARICK
JEWELER and OPTICIAN

Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel makes no mention of the literacy test as a great saving factor against undesirable incomers. The most desirable immigration we have seems to be that which in many States is taking up their neglected farms; but literacy is no test of this. The most undesirable is that which in undue proportion peoples our charitable and reformatory institutions, but literacy is again no test and would provide no certain remedy.

We shall find a better remedy in the closer enforcement of existing laws against the admission of the diseased, the defective, the lawbreaker and those likely to become a public charge, under which last year, according to a recent dispatch, 2,456 were deported and 16,057 were turned away at the gates of entry. Literary tests can prove nothing of a civic value in a nation dedicated to the work of providing larger opportunity for the poor and ignorant and oppressed of the world.

ADVERTISED LETTERS

List of letters remaining unclaimed in the postoffice at Juneau, Alaska, for the week ending Dec. 21, 1912.

- Parties calling for them should ask for "advertised" mail and give date of list.
- Ira Aldrich.
- Iver Carlson.
- Knut Erickson.
- W. Layton.
- Peter Obrini.
- Joe Oluma.
- Andrew Pedersen.
- Mrs. John Salsberg. (card)
- Karl Sather.
- Matt Soderland.
- Miss Verna Spaulding. (card)
- E. L. HUNTER, P. M.

THE FISHING FLEET.

- Rolfe—Sailed Dec. 26.
- Kennebec—Ar. Dec. 19.
- Dora M.—Sailed Dec. 26.
- Pacific—Out.
- Mildred—No. 1.—Out.
- Mildred—No. 2.—Out.
- Active—Out.
- Oiga—Ar. Dec. 25.
- Belle—Sailed Dec. 11.
- Highland Queen—Ar. Dec. 21.
- Louise—Sailed Dec. 27.
- Norman Sunde—Sailed Dec. 27.
- Volunteer—Out.
- Vesta—On beach.
- Valkyrie—Out.
- Xanthus—Sailed Dec. 19.
- Walf—Sailed Dec. 9.
- WhiteStar—Sailed Dec. 12.
- Lister—Sailed Dec. 26.
- Olympic—Sailed Dec. 10.
- Dick—Laid Up.
- Dolphin—Ar. Dec. 21.
- Halley—Out.
- Alameda—Out.
- Annie—Ar. Dec. 22.
- Uranus—Out.
- Pollux—Ar. Dec. 10.
- Cedric—Out.
- Thelma—Ar. Dec. 23.
- Alvida—Sailed Dec. 14.
- Comet—Sailed Dec. 21.
- Anita Phillips—Sailed Dec. 27.
- Sokol.—Ar. Dec. 25.

The finest sight in town is my beautiful stock of cut glass. Here is where quality counts. Valentine's Store at Juneau has the latest, newest and most beautiful designs, something you never saw before. ***

Whatever your needs, come in and let me show you a variety of beautiful presents that will at once appeal to you as "Just the thing." Valentine's Store has genuine new attractions for Christmas. ***

High grade cut glass that will please particular people; water, wine and whiskey sets; beer bowls, sugar and cream, footed comforts, oil and vinegar bottles, cigar and tobacco jars. I. J. Sharick has the best lines of goods suitable for Christmas. Call and make selections while the stock is full.

The newest and best, the original idea and the modern thought in Christmas goods is seen everywhere in Valentine's bright, fresh stock of jewelry, silverware, cut glass, and every other thing that you may desire for presentation. ***

Ladies wishing to make a selection of a pipe or box of cigars for Christmas presents may "phone their wants in to BURFORD'S and depend on prompt and efficient service.

To Juneau patrons:
I wish to announce that I am prepared to give prompt and efficient service in delivering coal hauling freight, baggage, etc.
HILARY McKANNA TRANSFER
Phone Order 5-7 or 55

If quantity and quality are what you want; you should see Valentine's cut glass before making your purchases. Many new and beautiful designs are displayed, not heretofore seen in Alaska. ***

Professional Cards

R. W. JENNINGS
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Lewis Building, Juneau

Z. R. CHENEY
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Lewis Building, Juneau

Gunnison & Marshall
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Decker Building
Juneau Alaska

H. P. CROWTHER
U. S. Deputy Surveyor
U. S. Mineral Surveyor
Office—Lewis Block—Juneau

N. WATANABE
DENTIST
Office Over Purity Pharmacy
Juneau Alaska

HUMBOLDT STEAMSHIP CO.

The Alaska Flyer **S. S. HUMBOLDT** The Alaska Flyer
NORTHBOUND JAN. 2
SOUTHBOUND JAN. 3
DOCKS AT JUNEAU CITY WHARF
Seattle Office, 716 Second Ave. GEO. BURFORD, Agent

ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO.

STEAMERS CALLING AT KETCHIKAN, WRANGEL, PETERSBURG, DOUGLAS, JUNEAU, HAINES AND SKAGWAY
MARIPOSA Northbound . Dec. 23. Southbound Dec. 30
NORTHWESTERN Southbound Dec. 22
DOLPHIN Northbound . Dec. 26. Southbound Dec. 27
Tickets to Seattle, Tacoma, Victoria and Vancouver. Through tickets to San Francisco.
ELMER E. SMITH, Douglas Agt. WILLIS E. NOWELL, Agt.

NORTHLAND STEAMSHIP COMPANY

Operating S. S. ALKI and S. S. NORTHLAND
S. S. ALKI, South, DEC. 30
First Class Fare to Seattle \$19.00
Second Class Fare to Seattle \$12.00
H. C. BRADFORD, Mgr., Pier 4, Seattle.
SOWERBY & BELL, Juneau JOHN HENSON & CO., Douglas

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.—B.C. Coast Service

Sailing from Juneau for Port Simpson, Prince Rupert, Swanson, Alert Bay, Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle
PRINCESS MAY JAN. 2
Front and Seward Sts. C. P. R. TICKET OFFICE J. T. SPICKETT, Agt.

ALASKA COAST CO.

For Yakutat, Katala, Cordova, Ellamar, Valdez, Latouche, Seward, Seldovia—SAILS FROM JUNEAU
S. S. YUKON DEC. 27
SAILS FROM JUNEAU FOR SEATTLE AND TACOMA connecting at Seattle for San Francisco and Southern California ports
S. S. YUKON DEC. 13
Right is reserved to change steamers or sailing dates without notice.
For further information apply to
S. H. Ewing, Juneau Agent. ALASKA COAST COMPANY, Seattle

FERRY TIME SCHEDULE

JUNEAU FERRY & NAVIGATION Co.—Operating Ferry Service Between JUNEAU, DOUGLAS, TREADWELL and SHEEP CREEK

Lv. Juneau for Douglas and Treadwell	Lv. Treadwell for Juneau	Leaves Douglas for Juneau	Leaves Juneau for Sheep Creek	From Juneau for Sheep Creek Saturday Night Only
*8:00 a. m.	*8:25 a. m.	*8:30 a. m.	11:00 a. m.	11:00 p. m.
9:00 a. m.	9:25 a. m.	9:30 a. m.	4:30 p. m.	for Juneau Returning Leaves Sheep Creek 11:40 p. m.
11:00 a. m.	12:00 noon	12:05 p. m.		for Juneau Leaves Treadwell 11:45 p. m.
1:00 p. m.	1:40 p. m.	1:45 p. m.	Leaves Sheep Creek for Juneau	Leaves Douglas 11:50 p. m.
3:00 p. m.	3:25 p. m.	3:30 p. m.		
4:30 p. m.	4:55 p. m.	5:30 p. m.		
6:30 p. m.	6:55 p. m.	7:05 p. m.		
8:00 p. m.	8:25 p. m.	8:30 p. m.	11:40 a. m.	
9:00 p. m.	9:25 p. m.	9:30 p. m.	5:10 p. m.	
11:00 p. m.	11:25 p. m.	11:30 p. m.		

Sunday Schedule same as above, except trip leaving Juneau at 8 a. m. is omitted

OCCIDENTAL HOTEL AND ANNEX

Restaurant in Connection Established 1881 European Plan
COMMERCIAL MEN'S HOME
FRONT ST. JOHN P. OLDS, Mgr. JUNEAU, ALASKA

UNION IRON WORKS Machine Shop and Foundry

Gas Engines and Mill Castings
Agents Union Gas Engine and Regal Gas Engine

The Empire
for
Job Printing

Good Stock
Plus
Modern Plant
Plus
Printers that Know
Equal
Unexcelled Printing

MAIN STREET
Phone 3-7-4

The Juneau Steamship Co.
U. S. Mail Steamer
GEORGIA
Juneau-Sitka Route—Leaves Juneau for Hoonah, Gypsum, Tenakee, Killisnoo and Sitka—8:00 a. m., Nov. 5, 11, 17, 23, 29, Dec. 5, 11, 17, 23, 29, Jan. 4, 10, 16, 22, 28, Feb. 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, March 5, 11, 17, 23 and 29.
Leaves Juneau for Funter and Chatham, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 17, Dec. 11, Jan. 4, 28, Feb. 21, March 17.
Leaves Juneau for Tye, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 23, Dec. 23, Jan. 22, Feb. 21, March 23.
Juneau - Skagway Route—Leaves Juneau for Pearl Harbor, Eagle River, Yankee Cove, Sentinel Light Station, Juallin, El-dred Rock Light Station, Comet, Haines, Skagway, 8:00 a. m.—Nov. 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, Dec. 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, Jan. 2, 8, 14, 20, 26, Feb. 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, March 3, 9, 15, 21, 27.
Returning leaves Skagway the following day at 8:00 a. m.
WILLIS E. NOWELL, MANAGER

We Are Headquarters for
DRY GOODS, CLOTHING
BOOTS AND SHOES, FURNISHINGS
STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES
ALASKA-TREADWELL GOLD MINING CO.